

Amendments to the Claims:

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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A method of increasing insulin sensitivity in a mammalian patient in need thereof, comprising administering to a patient an effective amount of a medically acceptable nitric oxide donor compound comprising an inorganic nitrite, a syndoimine, a nitroprusside, a S-nitrosothiol, or mixtures thereof.

Claim 2 (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said administering step comprises orally administering the compound.

Claim 3 (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said administering step comprises injecting the compound.

Claims 4-18 (cancelled)

Claim 19. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said insulin sensitivity is hepatic sensitizing substance (HISS) dependent insulin sensitivity.

Claim 20 (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the inorganic nitrite is sodium nitrite.

Claim 21 (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the syndoimine is 3-morpholinosyndoimine (SIN-1).

Claim 22 (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the S-nitrosothiol is S-nitroso-N-acetyl-D, L-penicillamine (SNAP).